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**Finding Aid to the
Esther (Schell) Hornbacher
Collection
2003.10**

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OVERVIEW

Donor: Diane Johnson

Accession Date: 24 January 2003

Collection Number: 042

Quantity: 0.25 linear feet

Summary: Books, correspondence, images, and subject materials relating to Esther (Schell) Hornbacher; dating from the early 1900s to the 1980s.

Languages: English and German

Links:

- [Esther \(Schell\) Hornbacher Obituary](#)

Access Restrictions: Open to the public, available upon request. Copyrights to items in this collection remain with original copyright holders or are in the public domain.

Citation: Esther (Schell) Hornbacher Collection, 042, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

BIOGRAPHY

Esther (Schell) Hornbacher was born on February 23, 1925 on a farm south of Pickardville, North Dakota to Gottlieb and Christina Schell. Esther grew up around the area and graduated from McClusky High School. On May 12, 1946, she married Willis Hornbacher, and the couple had six children: Paul, Jeanette, Diane, Tom, Perry, and Gregory. Gregory died in infancy in 1958. Willis Hornbacher died on April 22, 1977. Esther had a teaching career that spanned fifty years. Esther (Schell) Hornbacher died on January 16, 2007 at the age of eighty-one.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Esther (Schell) Hornbacher Collection** consists of books, correspondence, images, a valentine, business card, and other subject materials relating to Esther (Schell) Hornbacher. The collection dates from the early 1900s to the 1980s. The collection has been organized into four series: Book, Correspondence, Image, and Subject.

The [Book Series](#) contains four books, dating from 1909 to 1980. Three of the books are in German and one is in English. Inscribed in the first book [2003.10.01] are: “Edna Feil Glass; Mrs. Arthur Gross; Ashley, North Dakota; Esther Schell Hornbacher; and McClusky, North Dakota.”

The [Correspondence Series](#) is comprised of letters from the 1940s, 1960s, and the 1970s. All of the correspondence is incoming letters to Esther (Schell) Hornbacher. Most of them are in German. The majority of the letters are from 1942 to 1945 and are to Esther Schell at Jamestown College from Gottlieb Schell and Paul Schell of Picardville, North Dakota. The other letters from the 1960s and 1970s are to Esther (Schell) Hornbacher of Fargo from Mrs. Gottlieb Schell of McClusky, North Dakota.

The [Image Series](#) consists of one photographic postcard and two newspaper clippings. The photographic postcard is of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway Depot and Round House at Milbank, South Dakota. Written on the front of the postcard is “C. M. & St. P. Depot and Round House. Milbank, S.D.” German text is handwritten on the back of the postcard. One of the newspaper clipping images is of the old North Dakota Capital building. This image dates to before 1930. The second newspaper clipping image is of winter snow at Niagara Falls, New York.

The [Subject Series](#) contains items that relate to Esther (Schell) Hornbacher, the Schell family, or the Hornbacher family. The series includes a business card for a Swiss watch maker, a sheet with the English alphabet handwritten on it, and newspaper clippings about Paul Schell and 4-H Club. Also in the series is a German Valentine with English text that was presented to Emil Schell from Elsie Schell; a Hollerith punch card retained as receipt to donor Bill Hornbacher of McClusky, ND for CARE food package send to Hans Bartels, Hamburg dated 26 January 1954; and a North Dakota High School Completion Certificate for Esther Schell, dated 1940.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid, detailed inventory, and initial inventory

BOOK SERIES

1. Fullbrandt, C., Zionslieder and Ernst Gebhardt, Frohe Botshaft, Basel. (Switzerland): Verlag Heinrich Majer, C, 1909; pages 160 and 88. [double book] [2003.10.01]
2. Height, Joseph H. Folksongs of Our Forefathers in Russia, America, and Canada. (Liederbuch der Schuarzmeer- Deutschen) Bismarck, North Dakota: North Dakota Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1978. [2003.10.02]
3. Luther, Martin. Das Neue Testament. Stuttgart, Germany: Privileg, Wuerttemberg, Bibelanstadt, (for American Bible Society, New York). [2003.10.03]
4. Korinth, Helmut. Christlicher Wegmeister für jeden Tag by Dr. Martin Luther (German text), Hamburg, Germany: Paul Hartburg, 1980. [2003.10.04]

CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 1/2 | Correspondence, 1942 |
| 1/3 | Correspondence, 1943 |
| 1/4 | Correspondence, 1944 |
| 1/5 | Correspondence, 1945 |
| 1/6 | Correspondence – Mrs. Gottlieb Schell, 1969 |
| 1/7 | Correspondence – Mrs. Gottlieb Schell, 1971 |
| 1/8 | Correspondence – Mrs. Gottlieb Schell, 1974 |

IMAGE SERIES

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1/9 | Photographic postcard – Train Depot in Milbank, SD [2003.10.05] |
| 1/10 | Newspaper clipping – North Dakota Capitol building, circa pre-1930 |
| 1/11 | Newspaper clipping – winter snow at Niagara Falls, NY |

SUBJECT SERIES

1. Business card – M. Michel Luzern (Swiss watch maker)
2. German Valentine (with English text)
3. Handwritten English alphabet
4. Punch card receipt for Bill Hornbacher, 1954
5. Newspaper clippings about Paul Schell and 4-H Club
6. North Dakota High School Completion Certificate – Esther Schell, 1940